

Animal Control

As your new Animal Control Officer, I would like to pass along the words of New England author, Henry Beston, from his book *The Outermost House*, 1928.

“We need another and a wiser and perhaps a more mystical concept of animals. Remote from universal nature and living by complicated artifice, man in civilization surveys the creature through the glass of his knowledge and sees thereby a feather magnified and the whole image in distortion. We patronize them for their incompleteness, for their tragic fate of having taken form so far below ourselves and therein we err, and greatly err. For the animal shall not be measured by man. In a world older and more complete than ours they move, finished and complete, gifted with extensions of the senses we have lost or never attained, living by voices we shall never hear. They are not brethren; they are not underlings; they are other nations, caught with ourselves in the net of life and time, fellow prisoners of the splendor and travail of the earth.”

In 2005, the Town was served by three Animal Control Officers-Dennis Gagnon, Erik Paabo and Lee Johnson. Within 6 weeks of assuming the position, I became certified by the State, receiving valuable training on how to respond to animal control issues. Enforcing the Town’s Animal Control Ordinance and responding to inhumane treatment of animals are my primary responsibilities. In Harpswell, I want to remind dog owners that their dogs are not permitted to roam at-large, but must be under voice control or on a leash at all times. In the short time that I have been the ACO, I have enjoyed getting to know more people in the Town and assisting them with their animal control concerns. The Animal Control Officer can be reached by calling 1-800-266-1444.



Lee Johnson
Animal Control Officer

Emergency Management Agency

The year 2005 was very interesting for Emergency Management nationally with all the hurricanes and disasters that occurred. Locally, I met several times with Selectmen and reviewed our evacuation plan for the Town. I attended meetings with the three local fire chiefs and the Town Administrator planning new policies that need to be adopted including a county-wide mutual aid agreement and an emergency Town ordinance as recommended by FEMA. Other activities included directing traffic for a brief period until Harpswell Neck Fire Department replacement troops arrived. [Rt. 123 was closed for 6 hours due to a road washout.] I will continue to do my best to assure everyone that the Town remains in a ready status should a disaster occur.



William "Pappy" Labbe
Emergency Management Agent